

# **FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**May 19, 2006  
Squalicum Boathouse  
Bellingham, WA**

Board members present were Ms. Pati Otley (Chair), Mr. Andrew Johnsen, Ms. Rebecca Francik, Mr. Don Lemmons, Mr. Ross Kelley, Mr. Jim Toomey, Ms. Jennifer Ziegler, Mr. Cliff Benson. Mr. John Gray was in attendance.

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chair Otley welcomed all to the meeting and specifically the new Board member, Ms. Jennifer Ziegler representing the Governor's Office.

### **MINUTES:**

Mr. Johnsen moved and Mr. Toomey seconded the motion to adopt the March 17, 2006 minutes.  
***MOTION CARRIED***

### **FMSIB BUDGET:**

Director Schmidt explained the FMSIB operating budget through April, the UP account balance, the capital projects funded in 2003-04, and the 2005 projects that will receive their funding during this biennium. Funding becomes available for these projects on July 1, 2006.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

The Director reviewed the status of the new account established in legislation from the 2006 session and the transfer of BNSF money into the account until the SR 519 project design is resolved. The Director recapped the BNSF meeting with the Transportation Commission regarding the rail study. The Transportation Commission held two hearings focusing on the SR 519 controversy which FMSIB participated in.

Director Schmidt attended the Wenatchee Freight Conference and reported on the region's freight goals and discussed the development of the 2007-09 budget that the Board will adopt at the June 16 board meeting. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) has requested that FMSIB prepare information for the development of a freight database and the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (JLARC) has requested data to be used in a matrix of programs providing state grants or loans to local governments.

The University of Washington is investigating a joint research project that would involve other western State universities to determine if they can provide research on issues that would improve freight mobility. An issue they are examining is a single application permitting process for the three Western states.

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORT:**

Mr. Benson reported on the Puget Sound Regional Council meetings. Mr. Toomey, Mr. Kelley and Mr. Lemmons reported on the State Rail Outreach meetings. Mr. Johnsen discussed the BNSF meeting in Fort Worth, Texas and the appreciation of BNSF for the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board efforts during the 2006 session. Mr. Gray reported on a similar meeting by UP.

Chair Otley reviewed the current status of the SR 519 issue. Correspondence between WSDOT and interested groups was reviewed and a discussion of how to prepare for a forthcoming meeting suggested by WSDOT. The Board would participate to insure that freight issues are addressed and would communicate the need for additional data.

**PROJECT SELECTION REPORT:**

Mr. Toomey described the review process used by the Project Selection Committee and the projects recommended for Board approval.

Mr. Benson moved and Mr. Toomey seconded the motion to approve the Project Selection Committee recommendations.

***MOTION CARRIED***

**PROJECT UPDATES:**

Director Schmidt reviewed the status of projects she has met with recently and discussed the possibility that the Board may want to put some projects on an inactive list. Chair Otley discussed possibly including an inactive list on our project list.

**2007-09 BUDGET:**

The Chair reviewed the discussion from the May 18 workshop pertaining to the 2007-09 budget and the draft proposed budget.

Mr. Lemmons moved and Ms. Rebecca Francik seconded the motion to adopt the draft budget. Ms. Ziegler abstained from the vote.

***MOTION CARRIED***

**PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT:**

Director Schmidt discussed the Priorities in Government document received from the Office of Financial Management. There are a number of ways to create a freight data base and the Chair asked Ms. Ziegler, Mr. Gray, and Mr. Johnson to work with Director Schmidt in developing a proposal.

**WSDOT FREIGHT POLICY OFFICE:**

Ms. Barb Ivanov and Mr. Scott Witt discussed the activities and staff assignments for the WSDOT freight office. Ms. Ivanov listed the other staff members as Ms. Elizabeth Stratton, Mr. Mike Roswell in Eastern Washington, and Mr. Andrew Wood in Western Washington.

**WHATCOM COUNTY FREIGHT:**

Mr. Gordon Rogers of the Whatcom Council of Governments, Mr. Pat Pollock of Alcoa-Intalco Works, and Mr. Jay Brandt discussed the freight challenges and current activities in Whatcom County and at the Canadian border.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

Ms. Francik moved and Mr. Kelley seconded the motion that the Board meet in SeaTac on June 16, 2006.

***MOTION CARRIED***

***MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:30 P.M.***



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**Patricia Otley, Chair**



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**Attest: Karen Schmidt, Executive Director**